Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1. A computer controlled object oriented programming
2   network system for distributing selected application
3   programs from a provider to a plurality of a customer's
4   client computers comprising:
5   a customer server computer connected to said
6   plurality of client computers;
7   means associated with said server computer for
8   storing a Hypertext Markup Language document including:
9   an embedded program applet for selectively
10   accessing each of said application programs being
11   distributed, and
12   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
13   program for installing said application programs
14   being distributed on said client computers;
15   means associated with at least one of said client
16 computers for selecting one of said application programs
17 for installation; and
18   means responsive to said selection of said
19 application program for sending said installation program
20 to the client computer that selected said application
21 program.

1   2. The computer controlled network system of claim 1
2   wherein said Hypertext Markup Language document is a
3   World Wide Web document.

1   3.   The computer controlled network system of claim 2
2   further including means for transmitting said World Wide
3   Web document to said customer server computer over the
4   World Wide Web.

1   4.   The computer controlled network system of claim 2
2   further including means for sending at least one selected
3   application program to the client computer that selected
4   said program.

1   5.   The computer controlled network system of claim 4
2   further including:
3   means in said client computer for storing said
4   installation applet; and
5   wherein said means for sending said at least one
6   selected application program to said client computer
7   sends said application program after said installation
8   applet is stored in said client computer so that said
9   installation applet may access said installation program.

1   6.   The computer controlled network system of claim 5
2   wherein said means for storing said installation applet
3   in a client computer stores said installation applet only
4   if said installation applet has not been previously
5   stored in said client computer.

1   7.   The computer controlled network system of claim 6
2   wherein said client computers further include a user
3   interactive World Wide Web browser, said World Wide Web
4   browser including:
5   said means associated with a client computer for
6   selecting one of said application programs for
7   installation; and
8   means controlling said storing of said installation
9   applet only if said installation applet has not been
10 previously stored in said client computer.

1   8.   The computer controlled network system of claim 7
2   further including means associated with said World Wide
3   Web browser for caching the stored installation applet.

1   9.   In a computer controlled object oriented programming
2   network system, a method for distributing selected
3   application programs from a provider to a plurality of a
4   customers' client computers comprising:
5   storing in a customer server computer connected to
6   said plurality of client computers, a Hypertext Markup
7   Language document including:
8   an embedded program applet for selectively
9   accessing each of said application programs being
10   distributed, and
11   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
12   program for installing said programs being
13   distributed on said client computers;
14   selecting at one of said client computers, one of
15   said application programs for installation; and
16   responsive to said selection of said application
17   program, sending said installation program to the client
18   computer that selected said application program.

1   10.   The method of claim 9 wherein said Hypertext Markup
2   Language document is a World Wide Web document.

1   11.   The computer controlled network system of claim 10
2   further including the step of transmitting said World
3   Wide Web document to said customer server computer over
4   the World Wide Web.

1   12.   The method of claim 10 further including the step of
2   sending at least one selected application program to the
3   client computer that selected said application program.

1   13.   The method of claim 12 further including:
2   the step of storing said installation applet in said
3   client computer; and
4   wherein said step of sending said at least one
5   selected application program to said client computer
6   sends said application program after said installation
7   applet is stored in said client computer.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 wherein said step of sending
2   said installation applet to a client computer stores said
3   installation applet only if said installation applet has
4   not been previously stored in said client computer.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 further including user
2   interactive World Wide Web browser programs, said World
3   Wide Web browser programs including the steps of:
4   selecting at one of said client computers, one of
5   said application programs for installation; and
6   controlling said storing of said installation applet
7   only if said installation applet has not been previously
8   stored in said client computer.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein said World Wide Web
2   browser includes the steps of caching the stored
3   installation applet.

1 17. A computer program having code recorded on a
2 computer readable medium for distributing selected
3 application programs from a provider to a plurality of a
4 customers' client computers in a computer controlled
5 object oriented programming network system, said computer
6 program comprising:
7   a customer server computer;
8   means associated with a server computer connected to
9 a plurality of client computers for storing a Hypertext
10 Markup Language document including:
11   an embedded program applet for selectively
12   accessing each of the application programs being
13   distributed, and
14   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
15   program for installing said application programs
16   being distributed on said client computers;
17   means associated with at least one of said client
18 computers for selecting one of said application programs
19 for installation; and
20   means responsive to said selection of said
21 application program for sending said installation program
22 to the client computer that selected said application
23 program.

1 18. The computer program of claim 17 wherein said
2 Hypertext Markup Language document is a World Wide Web
3 document.

1 19. The computer program of claim 18 further including
2 means for transmitting said World Wide Web document to
3 said customer server computer over the World Wide Web.

1   20.   The computer program of claim 18 further including
2   means for sending at least one selected application
3   program to the client computer that selected said
4   application program.

1   21.   The computer program of claim 20 further including:
2   means in said client computer for storing said
3   installation applet; and
4   wherein said means for sending said at least one
5   selected application program to said client computer
6   sends said program after said installation applet is
7   stored in said client computer so that said installation
8   applet may access said installation program.

1   22.   The computer program of claim 21 wherein said means
2   for storing said installation applet in a client computer
3   stores said installation applet only if said installation
4   applet has not been previously sent to said client
5   computer.

1   23.   The computer program of claim 22 wherein said client
2   computers further include a user interactive World Wide
3   Web browser program, said World Wide Web browser program
4   including:
5   said means associated with a client computer for
6   selecting one of said application programs for
7   installation; and
8   said means controlling said storing of said
9   installation applet only if said installation applet has
10   not been previously stored in said client computer.

1   24.   The computer program of claim 23 further including

2   means associated with said World Wide Web browser program

3   for caching the stored installation applets.

1 25. A Hypertext Markup Language document for
2 distribution of computer application programs to client
3 computers over the World Wide Web comprising:
4   an embedded object oriented program applet, each
5 applet for selectively accessing application programs
6 being distributed;
7   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
8 program for installing said application programs; and
9   user selectable hyperlinks to one of said embedded
10 applets.

1 26. The Hypertext Markup Language document of claim 25
2 further including a user selectable install hyperlink to
3 automatically install in client computers, the
4 application programs accessed by said embedded program
5 applets.

1 27. The Hypertext Markup Language document of claim 26
2 wherein said embedded object oriented program applets and
3 installation applets are implemented in the Java object
4 oriented programming language.